

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A flexible substrate storage equipment comprising:

at least a pair of opposed members that constitute an outer frame of a storage equipment main body,

wherein said pair of opposed members are disposed so as to maintain a predetermined interval to wedge a plurality of flexible substrates in between to hold them in a shape of a curve,

wherein each of said pair of opposed members includes a plurality of holding members for holding the plurality of flexible substrates in alignment, said plurality of holding members in a pair being spaced apart from each other,

wherein each of said holding members has a single finger; and

wherein said plurality of substrates do not form a right angle with respect to said pair of opposed members, and wherein the holding members are angled so as to define an angle which is not a right angle between each holding member and the corresponding one of the opposed members, and each of the flexible substrates contacts both of the pair of opposed members, and wherein each of the plurality of flexible substrates is stored along and between adjacent ones of the plurality of holding members, and the adjacent ones of the plurality of holding members hold each of the plurality of flexible substrates; and

wherein each of said holding members on each of the opposed members is angled upwardly and has a single finger, and said pair of opposed members are disposed so as to maintain a predetermined interval to wedge a plurality of flexible substrates in between to hold

them in a shape of a curve so that the flexible substrates contact the opposed members and are bowed upwardly.

2. (Original) The flexible substrate storage equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein: said predetermined interval between said pair of opposed members in a state of holding said plurality of flexible substrates is shorter than a length of said plurality of substrates in a holding direction.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1, wherein: said predetermined interval between said pair of opposed members can be increased when placing said plurality of substrates and taking them in and out said flexible substrate storage equipment.

8. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 7, wherein: said holding member of at least one of said pair of opposed members includes a curved section for each of said plurality of substrates.

9. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1, wherein: said storage equipment main body includes a base plate at an depth end of said pair of opposed members in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates; and

an insertion groove is formed in said base plate for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve.

10. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

said storage equipment main body includes a base plate at an depth end of said pair of opposed members in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates; and

an insertion groove is formed in said base plate for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve.

11. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided at each of said pair of opposed members, for holding said plurality of substrates in alignment, and

an insertion groove for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve is formed in a base plate provided at a back end in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

12. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided at each of said pair of opposed members, for holding said plurality of substrates in alignment, and

an insertion groove for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve is formed in a base plate provided at a back end in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

13. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1,

wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided with a substrate bending section on at least one of said pair of opposed members, and an insertion groove is formed in said base plate for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve; and
 an insertion groove for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve is formed in a base plate provided at a back end in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

14. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2,

wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided with a substrate bending section on at least one of said pair of opposed members, and an insertion groove is formed in said base plate for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve; and
 an insertion groove for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve is formed in a base plate provided at a back end in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

15. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1,

wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a base plate at an depth end of said pair of opposed members in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates; and
 a plurality of protrusions are formed on said base plate for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve.

16. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2,
wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a base plate at an depth end of said pair of
 opposed members in a direction of inserting said plurality of substrates; and
 a plurality of protrusions are formed in said base plate for guiding said plurality of
 substrates along a curve.

17. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1,
wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided at each of said
 pair of opposed members, for holding said plurality of substrates in alignment, and
 a plurality of protrusions for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve are formed
 in a base plate provided at a back end in direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

18. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2,
wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided at each of said
 pair of opposed members, for holding said plurality of substrates in alignment, and
 a plurality of protrusions for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve are formed
 in a base plate provided at a back end in direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

19. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1,
wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided with a substrate
 bending section on at least one of said pair of opposed members, and an insertion groove is
 formed in said base plate for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve; and
 a plurality of protrusions for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve are formed
 in a base plate provided at a back end in direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

20. (Withdrawn) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2,
wherein:

 said storage equipment main body includes a holding member provided with a substrate
 bending section on at least one of said pair of opposed members, and an insertion groove is
 formed in said base plate for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve; and
 a plurality of protrusions for guiding said plurality of substrates along a curve are formed
 in a base plate provided at a back end in direction of inserting said plurality of substrates.

21. (Original) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
 said plurality of substrates are stored in a stand position.

22. (Original) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
 said plurality of substrates are stored in a stand position.

23. (Original) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said plurality of substrates are flat plates.

24. (Original) The flexible substrate storage equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

said plurality of substrates are flat plates.

25. (Currently amended) A storing method of flexible substrates,

wherein a plurality of flexible substrates are wedged by a pair of opposed members which constitute an outer frame of a storage equipment main body,

wherein each of said opposed members includes a plurality of holding members for respectively holding flexible substrates, and wherein each of the holding members consists of a single finger so that immediately adjacent holding members do not contact each other; and

wherein the holding members are angled so as to define an angle of not a right angle between each holding member and the corresponding one of the opposed members, and each of the flexible substrates contacts both of the pair of opposed members, and wherein each of the plurality of flexible substrates is stored along and between adjacent ones of the plurality of holding members, and the adjacent ones of the plurality of holding members hold each of the plurality of flexible substrates; and

wherein each of said holding members on each of the opposed members is angled upwardly and consists of a single finger, and said pair of opposed members are disposed so as to maintain a predetermined interval to wedge a plurality of flexible substrates in between to hold them in a shape of a curve so that the flexible substrates contact the opposed members and are bowed upwardly.

26. (Original) The storing method of flexible substrates as set forth in claim 25, said predetermined interval between said pair of opposed members in a state of holding said plurality of flexible substrates is shorter than a length of said plurality of substrates in a holding direction.

27. (Previously presented) The flexible substrate storage equipment of claim 1, wherein each of the holding members consists of a single finger so that immediately adjacent holding members do not contact each other.